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**L.A.**

# 4 P. M.

## A LIVID FIRE.

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### It Adds Its Terrors to the Oppressive Day.

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### First Avenue's Fierce and Threatening Blaze.

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The cigar factories of Foster & Hillman and of Lichtenstein Brothers Visited by Great Flames—Paleo-Stricken Employees Fill the Fire-Escapes and Stairways—Failure of the Water Supply Threatens the Neighborhood with Destruction—Tenants Hurriedly Move Out of Endangered Houses.

Three alarms were sent out in rapid succession this morning for a fire which was discovered at about 9.20 o'clock in the five-story brick block with manhard roof, extending from Thirty-eighth to Thirty-ninth streets in First avenue.

The buildings were occupied by the cigar-making firms of Lichtenstein Brothers and Foster & Hillman.

A PANIC AMONG EMPLOYEES.

There were 1,900 employees in the buildings, a third of whom were girls, and the fright and excitement among these people was terrible to witness.

There were 300 men and boys and 150 women and girls in Foster & Hillman's factory, which is situated on the southwest corner of First avenue and thirty-ninth street. James Martin, the young man in charge of the elevator, discovered the fire on the upper floor, which is used as a packing room.

Situated in a peculiarly dangerous district, with large tenement-houses all around it and big gas tanks in its immediate neighborhood, the fire early aroused a panic among the people and hurried preparations were begun for removal from the tenements.

At Fortieth street and First avenue are located the gas works in which the fatal explosion of last November occurred.

The fire got a most advantageous start, and although the firemen responded promptly to the alarms, they found a discouraging piece of work out there for them when they arrived at the scene.

Inside the high walls of the building there was a seething mass of flame, the fierce heat from which added to the extreme torridity of the day made life and work almost unbearable in the vicinity.

Streams of water from the engines and a deluge from the water tower fell into the main flames almost without visible effect.

At 10 o'clock half of the front wall fell in, from Thirty-ninth street down, and as the ruins toppled over and crashed down there was a great uprush of flame and sparks which seemed to threaten destruction for everything in the neighborhood.

Bravely and unflinchingly the firemen worked in the almost crepuscular twilight.

THE WATER SUPPLY FAILS.

To the other difficulties of the situation were added very soon the failure of the water supply.

Chief Shay sent out the signal for an increase in the water head, but it was of no avail. The streams could not be forced even to the fourth floor of the burning structure.

Fire boats were summoned to come to the nearest dock in the hope that they might furnish aid.

The firemen had long before been compelled to give all their efforts towards saving adjoining buildings, as the heat had driven them from the hopelessly enveloped factory structure.

Originating in the Foots & Hillson factory, the flames spread to Lichtenstein Brothers' manufacturing building, as the heat had driven them from the hopelessly enveloped factory structure.

In the early part of the fire, the fire-escapes and stairways were filled with employees, men, women and children, crying, screaming and struggling in their mad rush for safety.

A green girl clambered excitedly down the fire-escape ladders on both sides of the building from the upper floors, several of them appearing in imminent danger of losing their hold and dropping to the pavement a hundred feet below.

By almost a miracle the hundreds of employees escaped without the loss of a life.

At 9 o'clock the fire had practically burned itself out in the factories, so rapidly had it consumed its light food, and the efforts towards saving surrounding buildings having been successful, the blaze was pronounced under control.

Tenements and blocks in all directions had received severe scorplings, and their interiors were heated like ovens, but all were still standing.

The burned building was owned by George Elbert, the brewer.

Evaluations were carefully made up the total loss at \$250,000.

While Chief Shay was on the roof of the building a tongue of flame with a sudden leap rolled out of a portion of his mustache and burned his face.

John Welsh, of Engine 8, was overcome by the heat, but revived when taken away.